

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
ITL 125 SYLLABUS**

Elementary Reading and Conversation

Instructor: Giacomo Poli

Fall 2015-2016

Office Hours: Mon and Wed 16.00-17.00 or
by appointment

Mon and Wed: 14.00 - 15.50

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will focus on improving oral skills: reading and speaking. The course is designed to prepare students for concentration courses offered in Italian during the Spring Semester. Emphasis will be placed on Art History, Literature, Cinema, and historical, sociological and cultural aspects of Italy, thus allowing students to deepen their understanding of Italian society and everyday life.

The aim of the course is to give students confidence in developing proficiency in written and oral comprehension, and in the vocabulary related to the topics covered in class. Special focus will be on new words and expressions, oral summary of readings, and speaking.

II. CLASS FORMAT

Reading and comprehension of short stories; passages; newspapers and magazine articles; introduction, viewing and discussion of Italian movies, lexical studies; oral reports.

The following list is tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the instructor to reflect the class' rate of progress.

Movies:

- Paolo Virzì: *La prima cosa bella*;
- Marco Tullio Giordana: *I cento passi*;
- Daniele Lucchetti: *Mio fratello è figlio unico*;
- Emanuele Crialese: *Terraferma*;
- Rocco Papaleo, *Basilicata Coast to Coast*.

Italian culture, traditions and society: selected readings on life in Italian regions such as

- Lombardia;
- Piemonte;
- Campania;
- Basilicata;
- Puglia
- Sicilia;

Biographies:

- *Firenze e la nascita dell'alta moda italiana: Ferragamo e Pucci*.

Art, Architecture & Design:

- visit to the Museo Ferragamo; visit to *Bellezza divina tra Van Gogh, Chagall e Fontana* at Palazzo Strozzi, discussion of works by Fontana and Maurizio Cattelan;
- discussion of 19th and early 20th-century civil architecture in Florence;
- *A glimpse of Italian design: from the 60s to the 80s*.

Literature:

- Natalia Ginzburg: estratto da *La famiglia*;
- Stefano Benni: *Fratello Bancomat, Il dottor Niù*;
- Leonardo Sciascia, estratto da *Il giorno della civetta*;
- Dino Buzzati: *Due pesi due misure*;
- others

III. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Photocopies (provided by the instructor): excerpts from works of several Italian authors, newspapers and magazines articles. Magazines (purchased by the students).

Films (provided by the instructor).

Book: Federica Campanini, *L'ultimo Caravaggio*, Alma Edizioni

IV. GRADING

Grading will be based on attendance, punctuality, outside assignments, quizzes, everyday class participation, class presentations, and a final oral examination.

Examination schedule:

Oral reports assigned periodically.

Final oral examination: Feb. 8-10, exact date and time to be announced

Dates of exams cannot be changed to adjust to students' individual needs.

Grading weights:

Class participation: 30%

Oral presentations: 35%

Final oral exam: 35%

More than two unexcused absences will lower the grade.

V. CLASS COSTS

Entrance to Museo Ferragamo, €7.

Entrance to *Bellezza divina tra Van Gogh, Chagall e Fontana*, TBA, €5

Book: Federica Campanini, *L'ultimo Caravaggio*, Alma Edizioni, €10,50.

VI. CONDUCT (see more in the MEMORANDUM on the last page):

- Phones must be invisible and either turned off, or set to silent mode.
- Only use your laptop computers during class when asked to by your instructor.
- Italian will be spoken in class at all times. Remember to ask questions in Italian. If you need to ask a question that is too complicated for you to say in Italian, you must ask for permission to switch into English («Posso parlare un momento in inglese?») **You should, however, avoid the use of English as much as possible.**
- E-mails and communications from the instructor will be in Italian, while your e-mails to the instructor will have to be both **in Italian AND in English.**

Students with special needs: Students who have a disability that might affect participation in Italian courses and wish to discuss academic accommodations should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

A final piece of advice from the instructor:

Italian does not have word or expression to translate the English concept of “cramming.” This is no accident. Learning a language does not happen overnight. You will get the most out of the course by continually building upon the concepts that you learned during the PLP and other Grammar Classes.

MEMORANDUM from The Italian Language Department

Attendance to these courses is mandatory and more than two unexcused absences will lower the grade (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or serious emergencies). More than five unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered as an absence.

During the academic year photocopies and other material will be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who have not been in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies. All assigned homework should be completed prior to entering the class. Use of the computer in class is restricted to oral presentations.

The language spoken in class is Italian. No other activities such as eating, etc. are allowed.

Dates of exams cannot be changed for individual needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to tell friends and relatives about this so they do not surprise you by buying tickets for you for trips to be made before that date. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

The completion during the PLP of one of the Italian Language courses ITL101 I, ITL102 I, ITL201 I or ITL301 I is prerequisite for admission to Italian classes in the Fall Semester. The completion of two of the Fall Semester Italian courses is prerequisite for admission to Italian classes in the Spring Semester.

Incompletes will be allowed only for serious emergencies and must be completed within two weeks.

Professors are available, by prior appointment, for short clarifications and explanations, during office hours.

Date	In class	At home
Lunedì, 2 novembre 2015	Presentazioni degli studenti; introduzione al corso e syllabus.	
Mercoledì, 4 novembre 2015	Cultura: La famiglia italiana. Letteratura: Natalia Ginzburg – Biografia; estratto da <i>La famiglia</i> , 1977.	Letture: da <i>Ponti</i> , p. 75.
Lunedì, 9 novembre 2015	Film: <i>La prima cosa bella</i> , Paolo Virzì, 2010.	
Mercoledì, 11 novembre 2015	Cultura: Lombardia e Piemonte	Letture: <i>La Settimana del design e il Salone del mobile</i> .
Lunedì, 16 novembre 2015		NO CLASS DUE TO CSU FIELD TRIP
Mercoledì, 18 novembre 2015	Cultura: <i>Firenze e la nascita dell'alta moda italiana: Ferragamo e Pucci</i> .	
Lunedì, 23 novembre 2015	Visita al Museo Ferragamo COST: €7 (out of pocket)	
Mercoledì, 25 novembre 2015	Architettura e design: Il design italiano degli anni '60.	
Lunedì, 30 novembre 2015	Cultura: Campania e Basilicata.	Letture: <i>Il Meridione ovvero l'altra Italia</i>
Mercoledì, 2 dicembre 2015	Arte: Fontana e Maurizio Cattelan – Biografia e opere.	Letture: <i>La mafia; De Giuli, Naddeo, Mafia, amore & polizia</i> , Alma Edizioni.
Lunedì, 7 dicembre 2015	Visita al Bellezza Divina COST: €5 (out of pocket)	Dibattito: Cosa vuol dire "Moderno"?
Mercoledì, 9 dicembre 2015	Letteratura: Stefano Benni – Biografia; <i>Fratello Bancomat</i> .	Letteratura: Stefano Benni – <i>Il dottor Niù</i> .
Lunedì, 14 dicembre 2015	Cultura: Puglia e Sicilia	
Mercoledì, 16 dicembre 2015	Letteratura: Leonardo Sciascia – Biografia; estratto da <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> , 1961.	Letture: <i>Dal '68 all'inizio degli anni '80 – Movimenti di protesta e gli "anni di piombo"</i>
Winter break		
Lunedì, 4 gennaio 2016	NO CLASS, MAKE-UP TO BE ANNOUNCED.	Biografia: Galileo Chini, un italiano alla corte dell'imperatore

Date	In class	At home
Mercoledì, 6 gennaio 2016	Epifania: tutte le feste si porta via	CSU CLOSED
Lunedì, 11 gennaio 2016	Film: <i>I centopassi</i> , Marco Tullio Giordana, 2000.	
Mercoledì, 13 gennaio 2016	Cultura: L'Italia della contestazione e della lotta armata. Parte I	
Lunedì, 18 gennaio 2016	Cultura: L'Italia della contestazione e della lotta armata. Parte II Fabrizio De Andrè – <i>Storia di un impiegato</i> , 1973; Lucio Dalla – <i>L'anno che verrà</i> , 1979;	
Mercoledì, 20 gennaio 2016	Film: <i>Mio fratello è figlio unico</i> , Daniele Lucchetti, 2007.	
Lunedì, 25 gennaio 2016	Lettura: Diventare italiani	Lettura: <i>Il fenomeno della nuova immigrazione negli ultimi 25 anni.</i>
Mercoledì, 27 gennaio 2016	Film: <i>Terraferma</i> , Emanuele Crialese, 2011.	
Lunedì, 1 febbraio 2016	Discussione guidata sui temi dell'immigrazione.	
Mercoledì, 3 febbraio 2016	Letteratura: Dino Buzzati – Biografia; « <i>Due pesi e due misure</i> » in <i>Sessanta racconti</i> , 1958.	
8 – 11 febbraio 2016	Final exam: to be announced	